

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAM-01 SAJ-01 DODE-00 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01 MC-02 H-03

AEC-11 ACDA-19 SS-20 NSC-10 /159 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:EJBEIGEL;OSD/DSAA:MGMACDONALD:VE

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EUR/WE:RDVINE

EUR/RPM:EREHFELD

PM/ISP:LBROWN

EUR/CE:HWILGIS

EUR/NE:WBUELL

C: HSONNENFELDT

S/ :MR. LUERS

NSC:NR. HUBERMAN

OSD/ISA:HLOBDELL

JCS:ADM. CROMER

OSD/ODDRE:RBASIL

OSD/I&I:CUFFE/WEISSMAN

OSD/ISA:ADM. PEET

USAF:WROBINSON

COMMERCE:SLEON (DRAFT)

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R 261753Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSAFE
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 038015

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, EBXP, BE, NE, NO, DA

SUBJECT: F-104 REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT

1. BELIEVE IT IS NOW TIMELY FOR THE USG TO MAKE KNOWN ITS VIEWS WITH REGARD TO F-104 AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT COMPETITION. ACCORDINGLY, THE AMBASSADOR SHOULD SEND A LETTER OR MEMORANDUM TO THE DEFENSE MINISTER, WITH A COPY TO THE FONOFF AND OTHER APPROPRIATE MINISTRIES, USING FOL TEXT:

2. THE USG IS FULLY AWARE OF THE DIFFICULT CONSIDERATIONS FACING SEVERAL GOVERNMENTS IN CURRENT STUDIES REGARDING THE SELECTION OF A SUITABLE REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT FOR THE F-104'S IN NATIONAL INVENTORIES. IN VIEWING THIS IMPORTANT MATTER THE USG SUBSCRIBES FULLY TO THE VIEW EXPRESSED BY SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS, AT THE LAST MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL, THAT A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO QUOTE REAP THE ECONOMIC AND OPERATIONAL BENEFIT OF A JOINT PROCUREMENT UNQUOTE NOW EXISTS.

3. WE CONSIDER THAT IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR A COMMON SOLUTION IS NOT GRASPED. IN SEEKING THE SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES OF STANDARDIZATION THE NATO MEMBERS WISHING TO MODERNIZE THEIR AIR FORCES, THROUGH AGREEING TO A COMMON REPLACEMENT SELECTION, CAN CONTRIBUTE IN AN IMPORTANT WAY TO A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL SOLUTION FOR ALL NATO MEMBERS INVOLVED.

4. THE USG HAS A VITAL INTEREST WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE NATO ALLIANCE IN SEEKING THE BEST POSSIBLE SOLUTION AND, SHOULD ONE OR MORE NATO GOVERNMENTS SELECT A U.S. REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT, THE USG IS PREPARED IMMEDIATELY TO DEVELOP SPECIFIC WAYS IN WHICH THE DOD CAN CONTRIBUTE TOWARD INSURING THAT MUTUAL BENEFITS FLOW FROM THE SUCCESSFUL INITIATION OF THIS JOINT PROGRAM. TO FACILITATE SELECTION
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OF A U.S. AIRCRAFT TO STRENGTHEN ALLIED MILITARY LOGISTIC ARRANGEMENTS, THE USG, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COMPANIES INVOLVED IN SUCH A PROGRAM, WOULD UNDERTAKE TO:

(A) COLLABORATE ON A SELECTIVE BASIS TO EXPEDITE DEVELOPMENT OF CERTAIN COMPONENTS OF THE SELECTED U.S. AIRCRAFT;

(B) SUPPORT THE TRANSFER TO THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES OF

THE PARTICIPATING NATO PARTNERS OF THE AIRCRAFT TECHNOLOGIES WHICH ARE EVOLVED THROUGH COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT;

(C) PROVIDE, THROUGH THE AIRCRAFT LIFE CYCLE, AND ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS, LOGISTIC SUPPORT FOR PROGRAM COMPONENTS OF THE SELECTED U.S. AIRCRAFT WHICH ARE ALREADY IN THE U.S. INVENTORY, OR ENTER IT LATER. THIS WOULD INCLUDE, AS EXAMPLES, RADAR SYSTEMS, INERTIAL NAVIGATION SYSTEMS, BOMBING-NAVIGATION COMPUTERS, IFF, ECM, AND RADAR HOMING AND WARNING EQUIPMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE ARE WILLING TO ASSURE THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED THAT THE DOD LOGISTIC SYSTEM, ITS RESOURCE AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES, ARE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT, ALSO ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS, INITIAL PROCUREMENT AND NECESSARY FOLLOW-ON SUPPORT FOR ANY U.S.-DESIGNED F-104 REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT AT A LEVEL EQUAL TO THAT WHICH WE GIVE FOR SUPPORT TO OUR OWN AIRCRAFT;

(D) SUPPORT THE PLACEMENT WITH THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL FIRMS OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, OF A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THE VALUE OF THE EUROPEAN PROGRAM BY THE SELECTED U.S. COMPANY, AND ITS INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATES. THE DOD WILL ALSO CONSIDER COMPLEMENTING AND SUPPORTING THE U.S. INDUSTRIAL OFFSET PROPOSALS UNDER TERMS AND ARRANGEMENTS TO BE MUTUALLY AGREED.

5. THERE ARE OTHER GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS WHICH THE USG VIEWS AS IMPORTANT IN CONNECTION WITH THE SELECTION OF THE F-104 REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT:

(A) U.S. CANDIDATE AIRCRAFT PROVIDE A FIGHTER WEAPON SYSTEM CLEARLY SUPERIOR IN PERFORMANCE AND SIGNIFICANTLY MORE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICALLY THAN ANY OTHER NOW AVAILABLE

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ABLE;

(B) SELECTION OF A U.S. AIRCRAFT WOULD ASSOCIATE EUROPEAN AEROSPACE COMPANIES AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL FIRMS WITH U.S. INDUSTRY CAPABILITIES TO PROVIDE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, DEVELOPMENTAL AND PRODUCTION KNOW-HOW. IT WOULD ALSO OFFER THE PROSPECT OF JOINT LOGISTIC SUPPORT MANAGEMENT PARTICIPATION WITH THE U.S. AIR FORCE WHICH HAS PROVEN TO BE SO EFFECTIVE IN THE PAST;

(C) EUROPEAN NATO EXPENDITURES ASSOCIATED WITH DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF A U.S. AIRCRAFT WOULD PROVIDE AN IMPORTANT DEMONSTRATION TO THE U.S. CONGRESS OF ALLIED COOPERATION IN BURDENSARING, AND WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IN ATTEMPTING TO PRECLUDE RE-ENACTMENT OF JACKSON-NUNN AMEN
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